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# World Missionary Conference (1910)

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## MINUTES

OF

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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### XI.—MEETING, 1st APRIL 1910.

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#### INDEX.

150. Sederunt.
151. Apologies for Absence.
152. Confirmation of Minutes.
153. Finance.
154. Approval of Minutes of International Committee.
155. Progress of Work of Commissions.
156. Review of Reports by Missionary Papers in the Field.
157. Advertisement of Reports.
158. Popular Volume.
159. Proof Copies of Reports to Religious Press.
160. Report of Synod Hall Committee.
161. Proposals by London and Edinburgh Medical Missions Committees.
162. "One'-World Missionary Movement."
163. Report of Committee for Development of Interest in England and Wales.
164. Report regarding Day of United Intercession.
165. Report of Delegations Committee.
166. Official Reception by Edinburgh Corporation.
167. Bookstalls at Conference.
168. Excursion after Conference.
169. Instructions as to Enquiries made at Central Office.
170. Report by American Executive Committee.
171. Grant of Powers to Scottish Members of Executive.

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At London, and within the Bible House, 146 Queen Victoria Street, on Friday, 1st April 1910, at 11 a.m.

Sederunt.

**150.** The Executive Committee met. Present, Mr. Duncan M'Laren in the Chair; with him—Sir John H. Kennaway, Bart., Revs. Prebendary Fox, Dr. George Robson, Dr. R. Wardlaw Thompson, Dr. A. B. Wann, J. Fairley Daly, W. H. Findlay, John H. Ritson, Tissington Tatlow, A. Taylor, E. Alport Wareham; Dr. H. Lankester; Messrs. Frederic S. Bishop, George Graham Brown, Edward A. Talbot, H. W. Smith, Hon. Treasurer, and J. H. Oldham and Kenneth MacLennan, Secretaries.

Prayer.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. A. Taylor.

Apologies for Absence.

**151.** Apologies for absence were intimated from the following:—Revs. Canon Dawson, T. H. Martin, George Packer; Dr. John A. Trail; Messrs. C. H. Bowser, and R. R. Simpson.

Confirmation of Minutes.

**152.** The Minutes of meeting of Executive Committee of 28th January last, being printed and in the hands of members, were held as read, and were confirmed.

Finance.

**153.** Mr. H. W. Smith, the Honorary Treasurer, submitted a financial statement as at 31st March 1910, from which it appeared that the subscriptions intimated to date amounted to £4401, 7s. 8d., of which £4281, 1s. 2d. had been received by him, and that revenue from the *News Sheet*, sales of tickets, etc., amounted to £1005, 14s. 9d. additional, making the total gross revenue £5286, 15s. 11d., exclusive of subscriptions received for volumes of the Reports of the Conference amounting to £315, 12s. 2d. The expenditure to the same date amounted to £5079, 9s. 2d., leaving a balance at credit of the ordinary funds of £522, 18s. 11d. Mr. Smith stated that after meeting all liabilities, including a proportion of office charges, and the cost of printing and distributing about 40,000 of the *News Sheet* as pamphlet literature, it was probable that there would be a profit of between £60 and £70 on that publication.

Approval of Minutes of International Committee.

**154.** Read the following Minute of the International Committee held on 29th January 1910, which has been confirmed by the American section of the Committee:—



METHOD OF DEALING WITH REPORTS OF COMMISSIONS AT  
THE CONFERENCE.Approval of  
Minutes of  
International  
Committee.

Prolonged consideration was given to the method of presentation of the Reports of the Commissions to the Conference, and of the discussion upon them. There was general agreement that the value of the discussions would lie in their serving two purposes, which might be generally distinguished—

(a) It would be desirable to obtain from so representative a gathering as the Conference a genuine expression of its mind in relation to the subjects with which the Commissions deal, and this positively as well as negatively, *i.e.* that the discussion should not consist exclusively of criticism of the Reports of the Commissions, but that it should be open to a delegate having any matter strongly on his mind to speak with the object of emphasising some point already made by the Commission in its Report. It would seem to be desirable that even on matters on which there might be general unanimity of opinion and agreement with the Report of a Commission, there should be opportunity of making a living and powerful impression on the minds of all present through the speeches of strong leaders in addition to the statement contained in the Report of a Commission.

(b) Where the Commissions in their Reports raise clear and definite issues on which difference of opinion is possible, there should be opportunity for effective debate.

In the view of the Committee, the discussion on the Reports of the Commissions would probably have a different character according to the contents and conclusions of each Report. It was agreed that a final decision as to the lines which the discussion of any particular Report should follow should be left to be determined by the Business Committee when the Reports are in type, although, at the present stage, the Committee recognised and approved the general purposes indicated above, which it should be the aim of the discussion to serve.

It was agreed to send out with the Draft Reports (which should reach delegates a month before the beginning of the Conference) a letter requesting that delegates should call attention to the matters in the Draft Report on which they desire that discussion should take place at the Conference. It should be clearly stated in the letter that the Business Committee could not undertake to find a place on the agenda paper for all the subjects to which their attention might be called in this way, but that, in preparing the order of business for each day, they would be guided by this

expression of the wishes of delegates as well as by the advice of the Commission submitting the Report. Intimation should be made that all notices of subjects arising out of Reports of Commissions which delegates wish to have discussed should reach the Secretary not later than Saturday, 11th June.

It was agreed further that in the letter sent out to delegates with the Draft Reports they should be invited further to render assistance in making the Reports as perfect as possible by calling attention to any inaccuracies, inadequate statements, minor blemishes, and all other matters not of sufficient importance to form the subject of debate in the Conference, and should send in suggestions in writing on these matters to be placed in the hands of the Chairman of the Commission, and to be taken into consideration in the final revision of the Report before publication.

It was agreed that a paper setting forth the agenda for each day should be drawn up by the Business Committee on the afternoon of the preceding day, and posted to reach delegates at their address in Edinburgh by the first morning post on the day to which it relates.

There was general agreement that it was of great importance to secure in the discussion that those should have the opportunity of speaking whom the Conference would most desire to hear, and who, by their experience, were recognised as having a special right to speak on a particular subject. It was felt that this could not be secured by any regulation, but that it should be part of the work of the Business Committee to informally approach members of the Conference whom it was desired to hear on a particular subject, and to suggest to them that they should be prepared to speak on that subject. The Chairman would naturally give preference to such men in calling on speakers.

It was agreed that the time allowed to each speaker during the debate should not exceed seven minutes, but that it should be open to the Chairman in particular instances to allow an extension of this time on the recommendation of the Business Committee, or at the desire of the Conference, or at his discretion.

It was agreed that the decision of the Executive Committee, that the conclusions of the Commissions should not as a rule be submitted for vote at the Conference, should be adhered to. A suggestion was made that without any attempt to pass a formal resolution members of the Conference might be given an opportunity of indicating their sympathy with a particular point of view which was under discussion by rising. It was agreed after discussion, however, that such a plan was not easily distinguishable from the passing of resolutions, and that it should not be followed. It was



recognised that the Minute of the International Committee confirmed by the Executive Committee, to the effect that resolutions might be submitted to the Conference if approved by two-thirds of the members of the Business Committee, left the door open for the submission of resolutions, if in exceptional instances these should seem to be required. There was a general feeling that it might be found desirable to pass one or two resolutions leading to practical action, and it was held that the provision indicated above left sufficient opportunity for the passing of any resolutions of this character that might seem to be desirable.

Approval of  
Minutes of  
International  
Committee.

It was agreed that the total length of time for which the members of the Commission presenting its Report should be allowed to occupy the floor of the House should be extended from half an hour to three-quarters of an hour, and that it should be left to the discretion of each Commission to determine the manner in which it would make use of the time at its disposal, *e.g.*, whether the Chairman should occupy the whole of this time in an opening statement, or whether he should make a briefer opening statement, and introduce each of the important separate topics coming up for discussion when they were reached, or whether members of the Commission other than the Chairman should be allowed to use part of the time allotted to the Commission, or whether part of the time should be used, not for introductory statements, but for explanation at a later stage, and for reply.

It was decided that in the letter issued to delegates with the Draft Reports strong emphasis should be laid on the necessity of thoroughly mastering the Reports prior to the Conference.

*Chairman of the Debates.*—It was agreed that for the sessions during which the Reports of the Commissions should be discussed the Assembly should go into Committee of the whole House, and that during the time that the Conference should be sitting in this capacity there should be one Chairman throughout. It was unanimously agreed that Mr. John R. Mott should be invited to be Chairman of the Conference while thus sitting in Committee.

*Business Committee.*—In view of the necessity of a Business Committee meeting to plan the business of the Conference before its opening session, it was decided that the International Committee should nominate to the British, American, and Continental Executive Committees members of a Business Committee, and that these Executives should, at the opening session of the Conference, nominate the members of this Business Committee to the Conference requesting that it confirm their appointment.

Approval of  
Minutes of  
International  
Committee.

It was reported further that the International Committee had appointed the following to be the Business Committee of the Conference :—

<p>The Rev. George Robson, D.D. (<i>Chairman</i>). Mrs. Creighton. The Rev. Prebendary Fox. The Rev. J. Campbell Gibson. Mr. G. W. Macalpine. Mr. Duncan M'Laren. The Right Rev. Bishop Montgomery. The Rev. J. N. Ogilvie. The Rev. J. H. Ritson. The Rev. R. Wardlaw Thompson, D.D.</p>	<p>The Rev. Thomas S. Barbour, D.D. The Rev. James L. Barton, D.D. The Rev. A. J. Brown, D.D. The Rev. President Emeritus J. F. Goucher, D.D., LL.D. The Rev. Walter R. Lambuth, D.D. Mr. John R. Mott. Mrs. Peabody. The Rev. Bishop Robinson. The Right Rev. Bishop Roots. Mr. N. C. Rowell. Pastor Julius Richter, D.D. The Rev. President Ibuka, D.D.</p>
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Mr. J. H. Oldham (*Secretary*).

(Another Continental member to be nominated by Continental Executive.)

The Executive approved of the various decisions contained in the Minute.

Progress of  
Work of  
Commissions.

**155.** Mr. Oldham reported as to the progress of arrangements for sending out proof copies of Reports to the delegates to the Conference. He stated that the work of the Commissions was well advanced, and that there was good expectation that proof copies of all the Reports would be in the hands of the delegates a clear month before the Conference meets.

Review of  
Reports by  
Missionary  
Papers in the  
Field.

**156.** It was decided that a communication should be sent to editors of Missionary Papers in the Field, suggesting that they should insert, during the following year, a series of articles submitting the Reports to criticism and review in order to make the Reports of more real value. It was left to the Secretaries to frame and issue an appropriate letter. It was suggested that a similar communication should be sent to some of the more sympathetic secular papers in non-Christian lands, and it was remitted to the Editorial Committee to keep this matter before them when sending out review copies of the Reports.

Advertisement  
of Reports.

**157.** It was reported by the Secretaries that the Reports of the Conference were being extensively advertised among clergymen,



and other leaders of the Home Church, and Missionaries in the Field, by means of the twenty-four page descriptive booklet, and that it was also proposed to advertise, at the time of the Conference, in the leading religious weekly papers. It was left to the Secretaries to carry out the advertising arrangements. It was further reported that up to date 672 orders had been received for sets of the Reports, including an order for fifty sets from the London Missionary Society, and for several sets from the Presbyterian Church of England Foreign Mission Committee, from the Church of Scotland Foreign Mission Committee, and from the Berlin Missionary Society.

Advertisement  
of Reports.

**158.** The Secretaries reported that the Rev. W. H. T. Gairdner had accepted the invitation to write the Popular Volume of the Conference, and that the Church Missionary Society had generously agreed to allow him to spend two months of his time on that work.

Popular  
Volume.

Took up consideration of question of publication of the Popular Volume, when, after prolonged discussion, it was agreed that the Volume should be published by the Conference Committee, and it was left to the Secretaries to ascertain, in an informal way, whether any of the Societies would be willing to underwrite quantities of the Volume. The Secretaries were also asked to communicate with the American Executive as to method of publication in America. The Secretaries were further instructed to make any necessary arrangements with regard to copyright. The arrangements for the publication of the Volume were remitted, with full powers, to a Committee consisting of Mr. M'Laren, Dr. Robson, Dr. Wann, and the Secretaries.

**159.** It was agreed to issue proof copies of the Report to the religious papers for their information in preparing articles upon the work of the Conference, along with a communication stating that these proofs are sent on condition that they are treated as private and confidential, and asking that findings of a Commission should not be published until they are submitted to the Conference.

Proof Copies of  
Reports to  
Religious  
Press.

**160.** Dr. Robson submitted, for the information of the Executive, report from the Synod Hall Committee as to the programme for the meetings, proof prints of which, as provisionally arranged, were put into the hands of the members. He further explained the proposals of the Synod Hall Committee with regard to a Week-end Programme for men.

Report of  
Synod Hall  
Committee.

161. Read letter from Dr. Sargood Fry and Dr. Price stating that two Committees of Medical Men had been appointed, one in Edinburgh and another in London, to consider and report respectively on questions of the relationship of Medical Missions to Foreign Mission work generally, and on health questions in relation to Foreign Mission work, and asking for official recognition of these Committees, and for sanction to their meeting either immediately before or during the sittings of the Conference. After prolonged discussion the following decisions were come to:—

(1) The Committee expressed regret that the subject of Medical Missions had not received more attention in the work of the Commissions.

(2) The Committee expressed regret, further, that it was impossible at this stage to make any fundamental change in the arrangements, or to appoint a special Commission or Sub-Commission.

(3) The Committee resolved to urge upon the Commissions concerned that they should take into the most favourable consideration any matter that might be submitted to them by the London and Edinburgh Committees of Medical Men, and that, if any papers or resolutions should be submitted to them that seemed to them suitable for the purpose, these should be included as appendices in their reports. More particularly—

- (a) Commission V. should give such attention to matters relating to the physical standard for the acceptance of candidates and to the health of missionaries.
- (b) Commission VI. should give such attention to health questions in relation to furloughs.
- (c) Commission III. should give such attention to questions relating to the training of native doctors.
- (d) Commission II. should give such attention to questions relating to the spiritual side of Medical Mission work.
- (e) Commission VIII. should give such attention to all matters relating to co-operation in Medical Mission work.

(4) The Committee further decided that, if in the judgment of the London and Edinburgh Medical Committees it seemed desirable to hold on Monday, 20th June, or Tuesday, 21st June, a meeting intended exclusively for medical men, to consider questions relating



more particularly to the professional side of the work, the Executive Committee would undertake to give such a meeting an official place in the programme, and to incorporate in the ninth volume of the Reports any decisions reached at this meeting relating to the professional side of the work. This limitation to questions relating to the professional side was reached in view of the fact that matters relating to Medical Mission work as a whole seemed to belong more properly to the whole Conference than to a gathering composed exclusively of medical men.

Proposals by  
London and  
Edinburgh  
Medical  
Missions  
Committees.

**162.** At this stage the Chairman introduced to the meeting Mr. Horace E. Wootton, the founder of the "One'-World Missionary Movement," who made a short statement to the meeting on the subject. Sir John Kennaway moved the following motion, which was adopted unanimously:—"That the Executive Committee of the World Missionary Conference have heard with much interest the statement of Mr. Wootton, and shall await with hope further developments of so great an ideal." The Chairman expressed the thanks of the meeting to Mr. Wootton for attending, and the latter thereafter withdrew.

"One'-World  
Missionary  
Movement."

**163.** Mr. Bishop reported on the work of the Committee for development of interest in England and Wales. A suggestion was made that steps be taken to interest the "May Meetings" in the work of the Conference, and the matter was referred to the London Committee to secure that someone in each denomination should bring the matter up.

Report of  
Committee for  
Development  
of Interest in  
England and  
Wales.

**164.** Prebendary Fox reported with regard to the day of united intercession, that the Archbishop of Canterbury proposed to issue a letter inviting the prayers of the Church for the Conference on Whitsunday, 15th May next.

Report  
regarding  
Day of United  
Intercession.

Dr. Thompson reported that he had sent out a letter to the leaders of the various Free Churches, and that they had all agreed to join in a call to prayer. It was suggested that the Prayer Appeal should be inserted in the May numbers of the various denominational papers. It was further suggested that paragraphs should be sent to the religious press, suggesting subjects for intercession, and that a letter should be sent out in name of the Executive to the various religious papers inviting them to insert the "Call to Prayer."

Dr. Robson reported that he had taken steps to have a similar "Call to Prayer" issued by the heads of the Scottish Churches.

Report of  
Delegations  
Committee.

**165.** Dr. Wann reported on behalf of the Delegations Committee that sixty-six special delegates had now been appointed by the British Executive, that it had been arranged that the American Committee should appoint twenty-five special delegates, and that, on the assumption that any appointments to be made by the Continental Executive should be treated as appointments by them to vacancies in Continental delegations, the Delegations Committee had power to make nine additional nominations, and that they had come tentatively to certain decisions with regard to the filling up of these places.

Official  
Reception by  
Edinburgh  
Corporation.

**166.** Submitted letter from the Town Clerk of Edinburgh stating that the Corporation, at their last meeting, had agreed to give an official reception to the World Missionary Conference. The Executive resolved to minute its grateful thanks to the Corporation for this mark of honour to the Conference, and it was remitted to a Committee, consisting of the Chairman, Dr. Robson, Dr. Wann, and the Secretaries, to enter into consultation with the Lord Provost with a view to making the necessary arrangements for the reception.

Bookstalls at  
Conference.

**167.** The Secretaries reported that they had invited offers from various booksellers in Edinburgh to run the bookstall at the Conference, but that in response they had so far only received one offer. In view of the heavy pressure of work at the Central Office the meeting decided to abandon the suggestion that a bookstall might be run under the direct management of the Executive, and it was remitted to the Arrangements Committee to make such other arrangements as to them might seem best, provided suitable sites be secured for the erection of a bookstall within the Assembly Hall and Synod Hall buildings without causing inconvenience.

Excursion after  
Conference.

**168.** It was reported on behalf of the Chairman and Secretaries that considerable enquiry had been made as to suitable places for excursions, that full consideration had been given to the various suggestions which have been received, and that, in view of all the circumstances, they recommend that the Committee do not arrange any official excursion. This was agreed to.

Instructions as  
to Enquiries  
made at  
Central Office.

**169.** The Secretaries having reported that a considerable number of letters were received at the Office of the Conference with requests that they be forwarded to those who are taking a very prominent part in the arrangements for the Conference, and that enquiries



for addresses were continually received, they were instructed not to forward any communications, or answer any enquiries, without first satisfying themselves of the propriety of forwarding letters or of giving addresses.

170. Copies of the Report of the American Executive Committee, read at the Conference of the Foreign Mission Boards of the United States and Canada, held 12th to 14th January last, were handed to those present. Attention was specially drawn to the stringent ruling of the American Executive with regard to reunions, special conferences, and other private gatherings during the Conference, and it was suggested that members of Executive on this side should assist, as far as possible, in securing that the Conference is in no way interfered with by such gatherings.

Report by  
American  
Executive  
Committee.

171. It was agreed to authorise the Scottish members of the Executive to meet and transact any necessary business, unless the Chairman and Secretaries should consider it desirable to have a meeting of the whole Committee between now and the Conference. In the event of a full meeting of the Committee being necessary, it was left to the Chairman and Secretaries to fix a date. All matters regarding procedure were referred to the Business Committee, with full powers, the suggestion being made that British rules of procedure should be followed in view of the fact that the Conference meets in the United Kingdom.

Grant of  
Powers to  
Scottish  
Members of  
Executive.

Closed with prayer.

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